

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, September 27, 2012

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.

Larry Gasco, Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call by Canetana Hurd, Commission Staff
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent excused: Greg Thompson, Ilean Rabens, George Caballero, Arnold Gilberg, Barry Perrou, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
July 2012 minutes were approved.
MSC – Sofro/Huffman

II. Chairman’s Report – Larry Gasco

- **Emmy Winner** – The Department of Mental Health received the prestigious Los Angeles area Emmy Award in the category of Informational/Public Affairs Series for its Profiles of Hope series. The PIO staff attended the Los Angeles area Emmy Awards ceremony on August 11, 2012. Congratulations DMH.

Chairman Gasco, his wife and Terry Lewis attended the Metta World Peace Comedy fundraiser at the Laugh Factory in Hollywood on September 20, 2012. The event raised money for Metta’s nonprofit organization, Xcel University that helps underprivileged and at-risk youth achieve their education goals with scholarships and other incentives.

- **Executive Committee Report** – The meeting was held September 13, 2012. Yvette Townsend gave an update on the SAAC pilot project which includes SAACs 3, 6, and 8. The purpose of Ms. Townsend’s presentation was to seek input from the Commission.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Report** – The meeting was held September 11, 2012. The main discussion involved Yvette Townsend’s update on the SAAC pilot project. Ms. Eddie Lamon, SAAC 6 Co-Chair announced she will retire soon. Chairman suggested more Commissioners attend a SAAC meeting once a year.
- **Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’ Motion** – Commissioner DeBose met with representatives from Commission for Children and Families (CCF) to discuss the details of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas’ motion. The motion involves funding a TAY program with MHSA dollars and bypasses the SLT approval process.
- **Spirituality Panel** – Chairman Gasco was moderator for a panel on spirituality issues sponsored by DMH. The unsung heroes who have lead spirituality issues and conferences have been DMH, Ed Vidaurri, SA 4 for many years.

- **LPS Reform (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act)** – Chairman Gasco announced the meeting schedule to formulate workgroups to review the 14 recommendations made by the LPS Task Force. LPS statutes and regulations are 40 years old. Commissioner Askins will join the group representing the Mental Health Commission.

III. DMH Report – Rod Shaner, MD, Medical Director DMH

- **Budget** – The Department continues as planned using MHPA funding (one-time) for this year and next year's budget. Dr. Shaner discussed the following issues:
 - 1) DMH plans to scrutinize the use of MHPA funding to assure funds issued are meeting the requirements.
 - 2) All 8,000 inmates under the AB 109 program have been released. The program set up in LA County is pretty successful. LA County Sheriff and DMH are participating in a heroin blocker medication program. Funding for this program is costing more than projected because more clients are enrolled.
- **Health Care Reform** – Health care is in California. Major funding for the program has started. Because of the need LA County could not wait until 2014.

IV. Commissioners' Reports

- **Victoria Sofro** – CAP Employment is a tool that captures the effectiveness of employment and education outcome information. The tool is broad based. Commissioner Sofro will update Commission on further developments.
- **Herman DeBose** – Met with Dennis Murata to discuss how programs are evaluated and monitored. Commissioner DeBose proposed several questions regarding how DMH addresses the issue of money not being used or used inappropriately.
- **Howard Askins** – Discussed the clinical snapshot narrative and defined the difference between lag and real time and raw data. Commissioner Askins attended the Clinical Policy meeting on September 26. He reported medication costs are down because of the department's relationship with pharmaceutical companies and securing discounts.
- **Frank Baron** – Will be attending the quarterly CLAMHBC meeting along with Commissioners Chairman Gasco, Commissioners Huffman, Lubin, and DeBose. Executive Director Terry Lewis will be attending as well.
- **Delores Huffman** – Spoke at NEO (New Employment Orientation). Over 70 new employees attended. Among the new employees some were interested in seniors and stigma. Commissioner Huffman briefed new construction and under construction projects in the monthly Housing Report.

V. **SAAC/Community Reports/LACCC**

SAAC Report

Barbara Wilson, SAAC 2, announced the passing of Dr. Carl McCraven.

Community Report

Los Angeles County Client Coalition – Rose Hugh

- Thanked the group for providing transportation to Orange County to attend the Santa Ana Oversight and Accountability meeting

VI. **Public Comments –**

Phyllis Coto for Pam Inaba – The MHOSC meeting in Santa Ana was a huge success. Consumers attending gave terrific input along with family members. We were divided in groups of 10. A leader was chosen for each group and at the end of the day we summarized our comments on forms to the state. There were about 500 present. This day was a huge success.

Dennis Miller – Discussed the Santa Ana meeting (63) MHSA topic recovery model vs. Medi-Cal model

Sawako Nitao – Question, do clients ask to hire the bus for going to offsite MHC meetings?

Barbara Wilson – Would appreciate some response about “LPS- Gravely Disabled.” In SAAC 2, we have an 83 year old mother with a son with the police but who also has severe sores on his torso. Verbally abusive every time he is placed he goes AWOL or gets himself kicked out. When in Olive View he is ever put on a hold despite the fact that he is homeless.

Carey M. Grier – Many trained peer advocates are doing a lot of volunteering at many sites and within DMH for days, weeks, months, years, and still are not employed. Also, for the ones who are employed there needs to be some funding put in place for further training of peer advocates, community workers to advance in career ladders. Also there should be some scholarships, grants for further education pertaining to mental or even something in health care field. Also mentors for advocates who want to become employed to show them the ropes and the process.

VII. **Meeting adjourned/NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, November 15, 2012

11 am – 1:30

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Room 739

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Minutes prepared by Canetana Hurd